

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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OPINION

[Desolation of smog: Tackling China's air quality crisis](#) (BBC News, 01/07/2014) Officials in China say they are confident green technology will help overcome the country's notoriously polluted air. Apocalyptic scenes of dense smog have recently forced major cities including Shanghai and Harbin to virtually shut down.

[China's Incomparable Environmental Challenge](#) (Council on Foreign Relations, 01/07/2014) It is tempting to write-off China's environmental situation as simply a moment in time. The imperative of lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty while managing the economic demands of a burgeoning middle class is bound to take a toll on any country's environment.

[Dirty air? Why not wash it?](#) (ChinaDaily, 01/09/2014) Some 350,000 to 500,000 premature deaths occur in China every year due to outdoor air pollution, according to a report by 21st Century Business Herald released on Tuesday. New air quality measures are constantly implemented and air pollution reduction targets have recently been set for local governments.

[Study shows how China's air quality affects its global competitiveness](#) (South China Morning Post, 01/11/2014) China has the second worst air pollution in the world, after India, according to a state think tank's report on global environmental competitiveness. The report, covering the year 2012 and issued by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) on Thursday, also concluded that China ranked 87th out of 133 countries in overall environmental competitiveness, after evaluating each country's ecological status, environmental management capacity and the balance between economic growth and conservation.

[Joint efforts to fight air pollution](#) (China Daily, 01/16/2014) Air pollution has spread to all over China. Nobody can keep out of it. Those people who used to mock the so-called Beijing cough now find that smog surrounds them and they also have to resort to masks, as they once saw only in the media.

[Expats seek to beat smog with technology](#) (China Daily, 01/17/2014) Several independent Dutch inventors are among a handful of foreigners who have found unique

ways to combat China's smog, as air pollution in Shanghai this winter soared to historic highs, making facemasks a seasonal fashion accessory.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[University unveils new air purifier technology](#) (Xinhua, 01/07/2014) Chinese researchers have developed a new technology to clean up indoor air pollution that avoids secondary pollution that existing air purification products in the market can create if used improperly.

[Water May Curb China's Haze, Air Pollution](#) (Laboratory Equipment, 01/07/2014) A researcher has come up with a new idea to cut back on air pollution: spray water into the atmosphere from sprinklers atop tall buildings and towers, similar to watering a garden. This suggestion comes from Shaocai Yu of Zhejiang Univ. and North Carolina State Univ.

[Joint effort to fight Delta pollution](#) (Xinhua, 01/08/2014) A coordinated effort to fight air pollution over the Yangtze River Delta was launched in the city yesterday. As per the agreement, Shanghai and the three neighboring provinces — Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui — will share information and take joint action to fight air pollution in the region.

[In The Face Of Historic Smog, China Adds \\$10 Billion In New Coal Production Capacity](#) (Climate Progress, 01/09/2014) The desolation of smog in China? Forget it. Despite experiencing the worst air pollution on record in 2013, China last year approved the construction of more than 100 million tonnes of new coal production capacity at a cost of \$9.8 billion, according to a report compiled Wednesday by Reuters.

[China's most-polluted province faces enormous challenge](#) (ECNS, 01/09/2014) Hebei, a northern region with the worst air in China, faces an enormous challenge in cleaning up its dirty air as data showed that little more than one third of all days last year met quality standards. The air quality index (AQI) in 129 days, 35.3 percent of days in 2013, was below 100, Chen Guoying, director of the Hebei provincial bureau of environmental protection, told a local legislature on Wednesday.

[Scientists to study Sakurajima to gauge health impact of volcanic ash](#) (Asahi Shimbun, 01/11/2014) Researchers from Japan and abroad have selected Sakurajima, a particularly active volcano in Kagoshima Prefecture, to study the impact of volcanic ash on human health. On Jan. 12, 1914, Sakurajima was the site of the most powerful volcanic eruption in 20th-century Japan.

[Timeline: Cleaning China's Skies](#) (China Daily, 01/16/2014) This news package covers the anti-pollution efforts from both government and NGOs in 2013. January 2013, heavy smog covers 17 provinces, mainly in North and Central China, for about 20 days. Seventy-four cities start to release daily PM2.5 readings after a new national ambient air quality standard is set.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[China's Slowly Disappearing Steel Plants](#) (The Atlantic Cities, 01/09/2014) With a crippling combination of excessive air pollution and industrial over-capacity, China is slowly beginning to move away from the steel mill. The state government announced last year that it would reduce the country's iron and steel production by a third by 2017.

[China Will Soon Embark On A Decade-Long 'Green Cycle'](#) (Business Insider, 01/11/2014) In the last four years, China has surpassed the United States to become the world's largest manufacturer and relieved Japan of its bragging rights as the world's second-largest economy. But those economic strides have come at a cost. On some days, the air pollution in major Chinese cities is severe enough to shut schools and ground airplanes.

[GM Pushes Forward After Volkswagen Wins China](#) (Wall Street CheatSheet, 01/12/2014) Unfortunately, rumors of GM's (NYSE:GM) fall in China were not greatly exaggerated. Volkswagen (VLKAY.PK) fulfilled analysts' expectations in claiming the sales crown during a brisk 2013 in China, the world's largest auto market.

GOVERNMENT

[Air pollution killing up to 500,000 Chinese a year, admits former health minister](#) (Ottawa Citizen, 01/08/2014) Half a million people die each year in China because of air pollution, according to the country's former health minister. Chen Zhu, who is also a professor of medicine and a leading molecular biologist, is the most senior government official to put a human cost on the smog that regularly clouds Chinese skies.

[China mulls pollution permit trade](#) (Climate Spectator, 01/14/2014) China will look into establishing a nation-wide trading system for pollution permits as part of efforts to use market mechanisms to help clean up its environment, the country's top environment official said.

[China's Hebei closes more than 8,000 polluting firms in 2013](#) (Reuters, 01/16/2014) China shut down 8,347 heavily polluting companies last year in northern Hebei province, which has the worst air in the country, state news agency Xinhua said on Thursday, as the government moves to tackle a problem that has been a source of discontent.

[Guizhou to dump half its coal mines](#) (China Daily, 01/17/2014) Guizhou authorities vowed to reduce the number of coal mines in the province by half in the first six months of 2014 to protect the environment, according to the governor, Chen Min'er. Currently, there are 1,690 mines. The number will be cut to about 800, the provincial government said.

[China Focus: Clearing China's air](#) (Xinhua, 01/17/2014) As smog continued over parts of China on Friday, lawmakers at the ongoing annual legislative sessions fiercely discussed ways to improve air quality.